

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph numbers [0015], [0017], [0018], [0019], [0020], [0022], [0024] and [0026] with the following rewritten paragraphs:

[0015] In Figures 1 and 2 of the accompanying drawings, there is shown a spa housing 10, on which there is provided a spa cover indicated generally by reference numeral 12 and a spa cover remover comprising a pair of spa cover remover assemblies indicated generally by reference numerals 14, provided at opposite sides of the housing 10. The spa cover remover assemblies 14 are similar to one another and therefore only one of these assemblies is illustrated and described in detail.

[0017] The spa cover remover assemblies 14 each have a lifting arm 18 with a first, lower end 20 and an upper, second end 22, and a spa cover engagement structure in the form of a crossbar 24 interconnects the second ends 22 of the lifting arms 18. This crossbar 24 extends beneath the seam between the spa cover halves 16 and 17 for raising and folding the spa cover 12 as the lifting arms 18 ~~of pivoted~~ pivot upwardly, as described below, into their raised positions, in which they are shown in Figure 2. Alternatively, the crossbar 24 could be replaced by a crossbar extending along the top of the cover and connected to the cover by suitable means. Another possibility is to employ as the spa cover engagement structure, instead of a crossbar interconnecting the ends of the ends 22 of the lifting arms 18, a pair of prongs extending from the arm ends 22 over only a part of the distance between the lifting arms 18.

[0018] Each spa cover remover assembly 14 also includes a housing or enclosure 26, which has a pair of rectangular brackets 28 secured by nuts and bolts (not shown) to the housing 26 and also secured by screws 30 to a respective side of the spa cover housing 10. Each of the housings 26 extends at an angle to respective ones of said lifting arms 18.

[0019] A pair of supports in the form of plates 32 are secured by nuts and bolts (~~not shown~~) to opposite sides of the housing 26 at one end of the housing 26 ~~[[and a]]~~ . A bolt 34 extending extends through openings in the supports 32 and is secured by a nut 36. The bolt 34 also extends through

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holes (not shown) in the lower end region of the lifting arm 18 and, thereby, forms a pivotal connection between the lifting arm 18 and its associated housing 26.

[0020] As shown in Figures 3 and 4, a tension spring[[s]] 38 extends along the housing 26 and has one end secured to a connector 40 and an opposite end connected by a link 42 to a pivot pin 44 extending transversely through the lower end of the lifting arm 18.

[0022] A connector 40 connecting the spring 38 to the end closure 48 of the housing 26 comprises a box-shaped member 50, which is of square cross-section, and a threaded member in the form of a bolt 52 in threaded engagement with a square nut 54 within the box-shaped [[to]] member 50. An eye-bolt 56, in integrated engagement with a hexagonal nut 58 [[to]] within the box-shaped member 50 connects the connector 40 to the spring 38. The housing 26 is formed by a tube of square cross-section and the box-shaped member 50 is slidable along the interior of the housing 26 but cannot rotate about the longitudinal axis of the housing 26. The connector [[+4]] 40 is therefore adjustable, by rotation of the bolt 52, for adjusting the position of the spring 38 along the interior of the housing 26 in order to correspondingly adjust the tension exerted by the spring 38 during pivotation of the arm 18 from the lowered position, in which it is shown in Figure 4, into the raised or opened position, in which it is shown in Figure 3.

[0024] When the spa cover remover is in use, and the spa cover 12 is in its closed or lowered position, as shown in Figure 1, the lifting arm 18 [[are]] is in its lowered or closed, inclined position, as shown in Figures 1 and 4. In this case, as can be seen from Figure 4, the spring 38 is under tension and, therefore, exerts a biasing force on the lifting arm 18, tending to raise the lifting arm 18 into its opened position, in which the lifting arm 18 is shown in Figures 2 and 3. The amount of the tension in the spring 38 can be adjusted by rotation of the bolt 52.

[0026] The lifting arm 18 is also formed by a square-sectioned metal tube, which is closed at its lower end by a plastic end closure 62. The link 42 extends through a slot 64 in one side of the lifting arm 18, so that the pivot pin 44 and the link eye 60 are enclosed and concealed within the interior of the lifting arm 18.